

## the BULLETIN A quarterly publication of the Arboretum Associates

Winter/Spring 2010 Vol.33, No.4 & Vol.34, No.1

### Gardening Marathon and Spring Campaign

Over 780 people have donated money or renewed their memberships since last July! We have had success raising over \$130,000 towards our goal of \$300,000. After some brainstorming about how to build on our success, we came up with a new idea that is part of our spring fund-raising efforts and will focus on one of our best assets.

In addition to sales at the gift shop, and our Spring Plant Sale, we will be having a work party at the Arboretum that will go on for 30 hours straight (see insert in this Bulletin). It seems like a good way to raise money. A marathon is 26.2 miles, so we thought of doing 26.2 hours, but people wanted to start earlier so we'll have 26.2 plus hours of gardening at the Arboretum May 14 and 15th. There are many tasks including feeding the weeders, sweeping and various kinds of clean-up inside and in the gardens. The majority of the work will take place during reasonable hours (9am-9pm), but there will be crews that work in shifts through the night. Most people will do two to three hour shifts.

Some fund-raising ideas we rejected. None of us thought running a marathon would be our first choice. People do succeed and get sponsors for marathons and walkathons to raise money for various good causes, but I wanted some thing that fit the Arboretum. A marathon with sponsors works by having people reward the efforts of the volunteers. I thought, why not have a gardening marathon where the endurance feat is actually helping the Arboretum? Even if we end up getting no donations or sponsorships we will have gotten real work done at the Arboretum. One of our best assets is our crew of dedicated volunteers. The gardening marathon will build on their efforts. Wouldn't it be rewarding to them to realize that money was raised to reward

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Spring is a good time to explore a little off of the main trail in the entrance natives garden to see California rock garden plants.

#### Largest Volunteer Class Ever

People just kept coming in the door on the first day of our annual six-week volunteer training class. Eventually we had 60 people signed up, dwarfing the previous records for attendance. The group has a remarkable set of skills that staff is still learning about. It is a gung-ho group that did not want to wait for the final class to start volunteering. Some students started volunteering the day after the first class. Staff and continuing volunteers welcomed them all in our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held in mid-February at the end of classes.

#### New Student Group to Form to Help Arboretum

Students interested in the Amah Mutsun Relearning Garden will be forming a student group spring quarter and work on a constitution and by-laws so they will be ready to apply for formal recognition when the application window opens next fall. In the mean time they will be helping the Curator of the Native Garden, Rick Flores, and Manager Brett Hall in the planting and maintenance of the new plants. The local Amah Mutsun Tribal Council was glad to hear about the new group. Chuck Striplin, PhD candidate at UC Berkeley and local member of the tribal band, has agreed to serve as advisor to the group. The plantings of the Relearning Garden will be concentrated in some areas, but will also be spread to some extent throughout the California Teaching Garden.

- Stephen McCabe

## Spring Plant Sale Saturday April 17th Arboretum Eucalyptus Grove

10-12 Arboretum and California Native Plant Society Members (Memberships for both organizations available the day of the sale) 12-4 General Public

*Boronia megastigma* is one of the most fragrant species in the Arboretum, but the aroma can't always be detected up close. See the UCSC Arboretum Facebook page for a discussion of the species.

Mark your calendars to make sure you don't miss our Spring Plant Sale this year.

We will be featuring some special Protea plants that were donated by Dennis Perry from Perry's Panorama in Somis, Southern California. Protea '7/11' is a selection Perry made of Protea neriifolia, the pink mink with exceptionally large blossoms measuring over five inches long. The deep pink flowers have bracts that are decorated with lots of deep purple fur. Protea 'Red Baron' is a hybrid Protea, a cross between Protea obtusifolia and Protea compacta. According to the Fynbos Research Institute in South Africa, this hybrid has lots of flowers with "dense brillant deep red bracts lined with short white hairs." Both of these Protea plants are winter blooming and can be grown as shrubs in the garden with some pruning. Look also for a springtime favorite, Leucadendon discolor

'Pom Pom'. This plant has very colorful flowers on large cones that change in color from green to vermillion to yellow as the flowers age. The flowers are surrounded by white to pale yellow bract like leaves. All three of these varieties make great cut flowers.

A new plant offering originates from Australia and is a selection from our Koala Blooms Plant Introduction Program. *Crowea exalata* 'First Light' is a small shrub with five petalled star shaped white flowers and small bright green aromatic leaves. It has a long blooming period and is best grown in partial sun.

After selling this spectacular plant for many years, we have finally given *Prostanthera ovalifolia* — excellent purple, a decent cultivar name. From now on it will be sold as *Prostanthera ovalifolia* (Purple Haze'. In the springtime, this Australian mint bush is ablaze with purple blossoms. It is a large shrub growing to about 8 feet tall that does best with some shade and fairly regular watering during the summer. Look for it and other prostantheras this spring at Norrie's and at the plant sale.

A few other plants you can find at the sale are listed below. Look for a plant list on our web site by April 10 at *http://arboretum.ucsc.edu*.

- Helen Englesberg

Adenanthos X cunninghamii Arbutus menziesii (Madrone) Babiana stricta Banksia speciosa Boronia heterophylla Chamelaucium uncinatum X floriferum Felicia fruticosa Grevillea 'Waikiti Sunrise' Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon) Leptospermum turbinatum — Flat Rock Prostanthera cuneata Salvia africana lutea and others Alyogyne huegelii 'Swan River' Arctostaphylos nummularia 'Bear Belly' Banksia 'Giant Candles' Boronia clavata 'Heatherwand' Boronia megastigma Crowea exalata 'Southern Stars' Grevillea 'Austraflora Fanfare' Grevillea X gaudichaudii Leptospermum — Tasman Hybrids Mimulus (various selections) Prostanthera rotundifolia Zieria littoralis

### Growing Australian Mints

In spring visitors ask, "What is that purple bush?" or "What is that glorious lilac-colored bush?" There are so many flowers at once on some of the Australian Mint bushes (*Prostanthera*) that it seems that all one sees are flowers, not a shrub with lilac or purple flowers.

In a pot, prostantheras are not drought tolerant. Like many mint family groups such as salvias, the prostantheras will wilt easily if under watered, but they will come back from a wilt. It is better not to let this happen, but they won't die too easily. In the ground the plants



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Please send requests or questions to: Bulletin Editor UCSC Arboretum 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064 email: smccabe@ucsc.edu

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#### Growing Australian Mints... (cont'd - p. 2)

drought tolerant once established. They can compete for water when planted under large trees, if given some summer water.

To get yours to bloom well in some locations will take little care. However, for best results, give them an occasional light feeding, occasional summer water, and prune the tips after the plants flower in spring. The tip pruning will keep the plants full and full of flowers. In exposed, windy locations, especially if you don't prune, check to make sure the top is not so heavy that there is damage to the lower trunk by rocking in the wind. Pruning by deer is almost never a worry. The pleasant to not pleasant aroma, depending on your nose and the species, will deter deer almost all of the time. Any plant may be tasted once when it is newly planted, but the Australian mint bushes very rarely will be. By following the above hints, the plants should be in full glory each spring.

- Stephen McCabe

#### Traditional Wisdom for Modern Restoration of a California Native Grassland

Over the past decade Pinnacles National Monument has acquired over 10,000 acres of scenic and biologically diverse lands. Recently a culturally significant land was identified in an area known as McCabe Canyon. In the canyon, an extremely rare habitat has been "discovered," consisting of a two acre deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) field and a three acre white root sedge (*Carex barbarae*) bed. Running alongside the sedge beds is a perennial stream that sits beneath a canopy of valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*). All three of these species are highly valued by California Indians peoples, including the Amah Mutsun people, who call the Pinnacles their ancestral homeland. The deergrass and sedge are extremely important to California Indian basketweavers and the valley oaks are prized for their large and abundant acorns.

In 2007 regional experts in many natural science fields and the Amah Mutsun met for a field trip to the McCabe Canyon site. During their visit, several respected botanists stated that the deergrass stand was one of the largest they had ever seen in California, and Nature Conservancy botanists believed that the site should be considered for G-2 global ranking (a designation of rarity) because it is unusual to find extensive sedge beds under valley oaks. In addition, many individuals felt the site was a highly important, yet threatened cultural resource.

A project titled, 'Cooperative Habitat Restoration of a California Grassland' partners the UCSC Arboretum, Pinnacles National Monument and the local Amah Mutsun tribe "for the public purpose of restoring habitat quality, reintroducing traditional management techniques and evaluating flora and faunal response." Among the nine project goals we are to: Restore the condition of botanically and culturally significant vegetation communities in McCabe Canyon, reintroduce traditional resource management techniques and determine flora and fauna response, gain a better understanding of ecosystem structure and function within McCabe Canyon, connect this naturally-occurring vegetation type in Pinnacles NM to the Amah Mutsun Relearning Garden at the UCSC Arboretum, convey to the public how California's first people shaped the landscape and how these concepts are linked to contemporary California Indian culture, and to gain a better understanding of the environmental and fire history of the site. In addition, an Amah Mutsun Basketry Type Collection will be produced for both display and educational purposes and an archaeological component will be incorporated. Currently we are working on developing desired future conditions for the deergrass and white root sedge and designing experiments to determine the effects of various management approaches.

At the Arboretum, we will be working with students who will learn about the McCabe Canyon research and how it applies to the Arboretum collections and other possible projects around the state. Former UCSC Arboretum student, Sara Reid, is working as an intern on the project for the NPS. She was a student worker, intern, and staff member at the Arboretum. She was the lead author of our Native American uses of California native plants brochure, a project she completed as her senior thesis at UCSC.

Most recently, we coordinated a site visit with members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the Pinnacles NM park staff, and California Indian basketweavers. The purpose of the visit was to understand what basketweavers are looking for in terms of quality of material from the deergrass and white root sedge and also to learn about traditional management techniques used to manage the quality of material. This information will be used to assist us in developing the desired future conditions as well as determining the best approaches to achieving the desired future conditions of the deergrass and white root sedge.

This project fits right in line with the Arboretum's mission of conservation, research, and education. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity to build lasting working relationships with our project partners, it further fosters our current partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and our work together on the Relearning Garden here at the Arboretum. Through this project we will gain a better understanding of both modern and traditional conservation efforts and management techniques. Stay tuned for periodic updates on this exciting project.

-Rick Flores

#### Edna's Echidna

The Arboretum honors the late Edna Vollmer by naming the *Dudleya* hybrid, *D. attenuata* X*D. anomola* after her. It is a name that is a bit whimsical in keeping with her sense of humor. The plants have the appearance of having numerous spines like the egg-laying Australian mammals known as echidnas or spiny anteaters. The hybrid was made in 1987 and the seeds planted in 1988. Of the several successful seedlings, this particular one is more compact than the others over time. They get more and more full as they age.

The plants should be grown in full sun near the coast, to light shade inland.

The leaves are soft, rather than spiny actually. The leaves are lime green to red, flowers white with pink, and flower stalks reddish-pink. The more sun the plants get, the redder the leaves become. To keep the branches upright, it is necessary to give the plants occasional water as the soil dries out. If pushed for many weeks without water, the branches will droop and there will be fewer flowers. Plant them in well-drained soil and give them occasional dilute fertilizer. Pests are few, but try to protect the plants from rabbits and snails. We will have at least a few for sale at the Spring Sale and afterwards at Norrie's.

Stephen McCabe



As parts of the Australian Rock Garden get finished, plants are assuming natural contours growing over the boulders.

### Arboretum Hosts Several Hundred People During Hummingbird Days

Several dozen volunteers helped make Hummingbird Days a fun and educational event outdoors for families. There were abundant flowers, hummingbirds, and craft projects. The crowds were due in part to help provided by KZSC Radio and Stacey Vreeken of the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Thank you all of our volunteers for making this so much fun!

### Taxonomy Trail

Botany students will make use of the Patrick Elvander Taxonomy Trail at the Arboretum as part of their taxonomy class at UCSC. Dr. Kathleen Kay, a recent hire at the University will be teaching the class that has been taught a couple of times in the past by Arboretum staff. Former Arboretum student worker and recent PhD graduate, Susanne Altermann, has taught the class also and will be assisting Dr. Kay in the class and in her utilization of Arboretum resources. Altermann has also starting helping with technical aspects of the collection database, particularly those relating to the conifer collections.

#### Amphibian Watch

The tree frogs have been making a loud racket nights at the Arboretum and as usual we have had to herd some of the California Newts away from the road and around the building. Some agency officials need access to our pond, so we have been working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the Federally listed, red-legged frog population at the Arboretum is properly protected when we do minor pruning of poison oak and willows along trails to allow access. The frogs need a balance of sun and shade, so occasional pruning can be a benefit. Additionally, we have been removing some senescing Australian shrubs from the area just above the pond to allow plantings that are better suited for the site.

#### Volume 9 Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Now Available.

Friends of Rodger, Australian plant lovers, and book aficionados: The much-anticipated, final, volume 9 of the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, by Rodger Elliot and David Jones, is now available! By the time this Bulletin is published, we will have ordered a volume for the Jean & Bill Lane Library and ordered pre-paid copies for members interested in adding to their home libraries. The book retails for \$250 Australian dollars. If there is additional interest, we are happy to do a second order. Cost is \$246.38 US dollars (\$225.00 + tax). We'll pay shipping as your membership discount! To keep the Arboretum budget healthy and improving, we will require pre-payment. To order, contact Susie Bower (Tues-Fri) in the Arboretum Office, (831) 427-2998, susiehb@ucsc.edu. Rodger and Gwen Elliot were generous collaborators in the development of the Arboretum's Australian Garden.

## **Butterfly Monitoring**

Informal observations indicate that Monarch populations are down significantly at the Arboretum over the last 25 years as in many areas where people view Monarchs. At the volunteer class there was great enthusiasm from people interested in the group working on monitoring all the butterflies at the Arboretum, not just Monarchs. The same people are interested in the native plantings for butterflies and will be working with Brett Hall and Rick Flores to determine where new butterfly plants can be planted.

#### **Bird Research**

There will be an entertaining talk for Arboretum members and the public about on-going bird behavior research at the Arboretum. It will be at the UCSC Arboretum Horticulture building Tuesday May 18, 2010 with a 6 pm pot luck and 7 pm program. UCSC professor, Bruce Lyon, will present the talk titled: "Signals, Social Behavior and Survival: Studying Winter Flocks of Golden-crowned Sparrow in the UCSC Arboretum."

#### Habitat Restoration Partnerships

Frances Campbell, Rick Flores, and Brett Hall continue to train students in planting with California native plants. Some of the plants are destined for restoration in joint projects with California State Parks and the UCSC Natural Reserve. Selling the plants helps raise money for the Arboretum.

– Stephen McCabe



Even *Prostanthera ovalifolia* 'Purple Haze' plants that haven't been tip pruned produce a good show of flowers in the spring. Many prostantheras will be available at the Spring Sale and gift shop.

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## Inspire Students, Gardeners & All Plant Lovers: Support the UCSC Arboretum!

# **Arboretum Gardening Marathon**

30 hours of gardening fun & education



#### Sign up for 2 or 3 hr shifts

- · Weeding parties or planting
- · Laminating signs, labels
- · Sweeping paths, trail maintenance
- · Carpentry: raised bed repair.
- · Cleaning signs, buildings, or windows

Saturday starting at 9:00 am we will take drop-ins to work. You must sign up for Friday crews, night work crews and some Saturday crews. Current volunteers sign up with your supervisor (Melinda, Rick, Astrid, etc) or group. Others email arboretum@ucsc.edu to sign up.

Bring gloves, weeding tools, rakes, or push brooms, & a hat & sunscreen. Bring a flashlight or headlamp if you are <u>signed up</u> for gardening at night. Volunteers <u>may</u> get sponsors per hour.

Celebrate the success of the Marathon, starting at 3:00 pm Saturday with a party and rare plant auction. To get more info, go to the website starting in late-March http://arboretum.ucsc.edu

## The Arboretum is Strongly Rooted

## May 14 -15, 2010

9am Fri to 3pm Sat

Arboretum closed 1am-7am except for a relay crew, which will take shifts safely working through the night!

Night tours: Friday 9:00 pm, 10:00 pm & midnight. Bring Flashlight! Day tours: Fri & Sat 11 am and 2 pm. **Tours:** \$5 (under 6 years old free)

## Support the Arboretum at UCSC. Send checks to:

Arboretum 1156 High St. University of California Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Funds support students and the education, conservation, research and gardening goals of the Arboretum.

**Donate** to encourage and sponsor a volunteer or you may help support one or more students at \$25 to \$500 per term (quarter).



First business to sponsor: Sierra Azul Nursery

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Sponsor Sign-up Sheet						
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The Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz 🔉 May 14 - 15, 2010						
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You <b>may</b> get sponsors but you are not required to do so.						
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#### **Sponsor Donations**

- (Preferred) Make checks payable to UCSC Foundation and in the memo write "Arboretum." Drop off at office or mail to Arboretum, 1156 High St, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.
- On-line at http://arboretum.ucsc.edu, please make certain you specify your donation goes to the Arboretum, not "where needed most".
- & By Credit card payments (\$25 minimum), call the Arboretum office (831) 427-2998.

For more information, visit us on Facebook or at the website, http://arboretum.ucsc.edu, or call (831) 427 2998.

#### Gadening Marathon... (cont'd - p. 1)

their labor? We are looking for some people who will donate to match the labor, even if they are not asked by a specific volunteer (see pages 5 and 6 for the announcement and sponsor sheet or download them from our website). I personally will donate 20 hours during the marathon and hope that I can get additional sponsors.

I'm no longer worried that we won't bring in some money in addition to work. Before the official press release, we have already received the first check for \$500. The first responses to the Marathon have been quite good. Someone who has not done gardening for us, but has helped in other ways, got to \$110 worth of sponsors in no time at all, is passing around our flyers, and enlisted a friend to help.

We have another way to turn the entire spring into a marathon. We are trying to get 26.2 X 100 total volunteer hours between March 1 and May 15. To help us keep track of this, please turn in your volunteer hours once per month to Lynda Haworth (*Lynda@haworths.org*) and additionally during the gardening marathon (e.g. "Lynda, I worked 10 hours weeding in the succulent garden during March.") There are many ways to help this spring that don't involve spending any money at all.

#### Goal for Matching Funds for Student Workers Met and Another Challenge Set

Great news! An anonymous gift from long-time Arboretum supporters has been matched by gifts from two other couples. These gifts, totaling \$20,000, will support the Arboretum's Apprentice Program. And—in late breaking news—we just got word that another anonymous gift of \$10,000 will be released to the Arboretum when we match this \$10,000!

The money goes to fund our apprentices—students and interns who do a lot of the work at the Arboretum, and learn as they go. The apprentice program supports these students and contributes to the educational mission of the Arboretum.

We are especially looking for Cabrillo transfer students who have a strong interest in horticulture to become new apprentices. Help is needed in the nursery, in the garden, with conservation projects like the propagation and care of rare and endangered species, as well as with habitat restoration projects. Similarly, if you don't like to get down on your knees to weed there are many ways to help, including telling people about the plant sale, sponsoring the Marathon, and by buying some plants at the sale or at Norrie's. The spring will be a marathon, but we aim to make it a memorable and enjoyable one where there will be time to stop and smell the boronias and roses.

- Stephen McCabe



Gooseberries and currants in the genus *Ribes* flower well in the spring. Anywhere but the coast, they will probably do better with at least some light shade.

#### SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL, HORTICULTURAL, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH GOALS OF THE ARBORETUM!

#### Yes, I want to give a donation, a gift membership, or renew my Arboretum Associates Membership!

New Member Renew	val 🔄 Gift Membership* 🔄 Don	ation Only (no benefits)
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		\$\$500-\$999 Banksia Circle
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		\$\$1000 or + Protea Circle
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	Yes, E-Membership*	
City, State, Zip	*E-Membership helps the Arboretum save money by sending the Bulletin to your e-mail address.	\$Donation - without benefits
	by sending the bulletin to your e-mail address.	- without beliefits

#### nursery discount program

Arboretum Associates can enjoy 10% discounts on plants (and sometimes on related merchandise) at the following nurseries:

**Gold Rush Nursery** 3625 N. Main Street, Soquel, CA 95073 • (831) 465-0314

Drought Resistant Nursery 850 Park Ave., Monterey, CA 93940 • (831) 375-2120

**Garden Company** 2218 Mission St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 429-8424

**Golden Nursery** 1122 Second St., San Mateo, CA 94401 • (650) 348-5525

Hidden Gardens Nursery 7765 Soquel Dr., Aptos, CA 95003 • (831) 688-7011

Ladera Garden Center 380 Alpine Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94028 • (650) 854-3850

**NewGarden** 2440 Mattison Ln., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 • (831) 462-1610

**Pottery Planet** 2600 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 • (831) 465-9216

**ProBuild Garden Center** 235 River St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 423-0223

Sierra Azul Nursery 2660 East Lake Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076 • (831) 763-0939 And, of course,

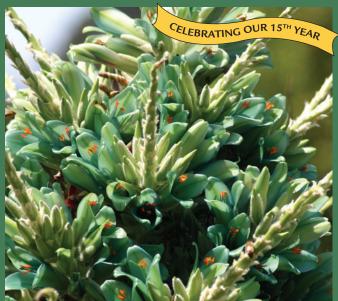
Norrie's Gift Shop at the Arboretum.

Printed with soy inks on recycled paper

The Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz is a living museum inspiring stewardship of the world's biodiversity through research, education, and the conservation of rare, endangered, and extraordinary plants.

Moving? Please let us know the address of your next garden... Thanks

## Norrie's Gift Shop at the Arboretum at UCSC



10am - 4pm · 423-4977 Show your current membership card for 10% off! Norrie's always has a great selection of plants, jewelry, housewares, statuary, books, and gift items.

356 UC Santa Cruz **Arboretum** 1156 High St. Santa Cruz, CA 95064

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The Arboretum is open daily from 9AM-5PM. Norrie's Gift Shop is open daily 10AM-4PM The Jean & Bill Lane Library is open Wed-Sun 12PM-3PM. Visit the Arboretum's website at: **arboretum.ucsc.edu** For information, or if you have any disability-related needs, call (831) 427-2998 or fax us at (831) 427-1524.